

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM
NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE
APPLICATION EVALUATION RANKING TOOL—STATE AND LOCAL QUESTIONS**

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) State Ranking Questions—400 Points Total	Points
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1a. Is the program application for development of a Technical Service Provider (TSP) prepared CAP? <u>If answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other State-level questions.</u> If answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400
2. Water Quality—Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Watersheds:	
2a. Does the application include core conservation practices (CPs) that will be implemented within one-quarter mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303(d) list, or is impaired with a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	100
3. Geographic Impacts:	
3a. Are core CPs planned on the offered acres? Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres are within the focused watershed AND greater than 75 percent of the offered acres have a core CPs planned for application.	125
4. Collaborative Efforts:	
4a: Are core CPs planned within an existing state agency or other non-U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75
5. Effort to address watershed impairments:	
5a: Does this program application include the implementation of a system of CPs which address the NWQI primary resource concerns?	50
6. High Risk Soils	
6a: Are core CPs to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	50
Total Points:	400

EQIP NWQI Local Ranking Questions—250 Points Total	2015 Points
1. Is the program application for development of a TSP prepared CAP? If answer is “ Yes,” do not answer any other local–level questions. If answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
2. Application includes at least one practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).	50
3. CPs are scheduled to be completed within four years.	50
4. Does this program application include CPs 328, 329, and 340 on all of the cropped acres?	50
5. Systems Approach:	
5a. Does this program application include CPs that cumulatively include all three concepts of avoiding, controlling, and trapping?	100
5b. Does this program application include CPs that cumulatively include two of the three concepts of avoiding, controlling, and trapping?	50
Total Points:	250